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## PERFORMER PROFILE

### Mike McCann – A Lifetime Study



If you're an avid sports fan, chances are you will see a lot of Mike McCann this fall in an ESPN Game Plan commercial for DirecTV and ESPN, where McCann plays the principal role of a coach promoting the football season. McCann, a 61-year-old Army veteran from Redondo Beach, Calif., creates his own opportunities. With a budding acting career in full swing, McCann is an example of the professional and diverse talent at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

This year, McCann, who is known for his friendly and cheerful demeanor, won three gold medals for his entries. In his gold medal wins, McCann is rewarded for both his acting and writing ability for his piece "We Thank You." McCann's other entries were in the arts of mime and poetry. This year's Festival marks the third time McCann has been invited to perform at the exciting stage show finale.

McCann is a true talent and a lifetime student in theater arts, beginning in junior in high school. Needing an additional credit, he joined the choir, igniting an interest that would soon become a passion. A graduate from California State University at Long Beach with bachelor's degree in Theater Studies, McCann received his draft notice shortly after graduation in 1968. With a family history of military service, he felt it was his turn to serve, like men in his family's past. In the Army, McCann would go on to be a chaplain's assistant and work for the Command Information Office for the Army, where he produced videos, write acting roles, and hosted a community radio news spot—a perfect assignment for his talents. In 1970, McCann was honorably discharged from the Army.

McCann is quite the entrepreneur when it comes to promoting his talent. With his hard work and persistence, he has appeared in movies, a TV spot on Court TV, film festival entries, and various commercials. "I work with an agency to help line up opportunities for acting and production," McCann says. "I really love the work and the opportunity to work on such a variety of exciting projects."

When asked about his participation at the Creative Arts Festival Mike McCann positively glows. "The Festival is a celebration of being an American and those who served. It may give people the realization that veterans are people too, and some are extremely talented. We show the country the talent that was put on the line for them."